

February 5, 2003

Michael Handal, Project Manager
Engineering and Capital Projects
City of San Diego
1010 2nd Avenue Suite 1100
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Flood Protection Corridor Program (FPCP) Grant
Browns Fill Removal Project, Tijuana River Valley, City of San Diego

Dear Mr. Handal,

I am writing in support of the project to remove the illegal fill dumped on the property known as the "Brown Property" in the early 1980's. This property is located on Hollister Street in the Tijuana River Valley Flood Plain. The illegally dumped fill blocks almost half the river flow way located under the Hollister Street Bridge. In my opinion, this blockage greatly escalated the devastating effects of the floods of 1993. The build-up of pressure as tremendous floodwaters grossly overfilled the existing channel caused the river to break through Hollister Street and forge the so-called "Northern Channel" of the Tijuana River. This new channel devastated local agriculture and small businesses, which have not recovered to this day.

The floods of 1993 had great impact on me personally and upon many friends and associates as we struggled to move our horses to safe surroundings. Many of those friends and associates remain at risk of additional flooding and will do so until the illegal fill is removed. Although I was intimately involved in the process of attempting to resolve the problems that stemmed from the floods until 1999, I still find it incredulous that it has taken 10 years to finally address this situation. Please do everything you can to implement this project as soon as possible.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to call upon me.

Thank you,

Candace Ricks-Oathout
Chair, Citizens Against Recreational Eviction 4 Minnesota
Minnesota Representative, Warrior's Society
517 Yosemite Ave N
Golden Valley, MN 55422
Telephone 763.525.1686